

To support this activity, SWAG recommends the establishment of a water development fund, which has been proposed in past legislation.

The fund would help to support local districts by issuing bonds and using other funding sources.

Payson is already controlling some aspects of development through legal mechanisms -- such as the Equivalent Residential Unit rule and water development fees -- established in its town code. But Gila County, among other Arizona counties, cities and towns, cannot limit development based on the availability of water.

"Basically all they can do is make a decision if (the development) is not appropriate," Walker said.

Local water districts, such as the Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District, have limited regulatory and taxing abilities, and that's why a one-size cure, Walker said, doesn't work.

Meanwhile, ADWR will still maintain control over the establishments of water rights and determining whether an adequate water supply is available for growth.

Guenther will speak at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at Payson town hall.

If you can't make it to the presentation, watch the meeting on Channel 4 or visit www.ci.payson.az.us for the streaming video.